

AUGUST 2021

News

New committee announced for 2021-22

Wikimedia Australia announced a newly-elected committee at its [annual general meeting](#) on Sunday 8 August. Returning are Alex Lum as President, and Pru Mitchell as Treasurer, and we welcomed Tom Hogarth as Vice President. Our heartfelt thanks to outgoing members Steven Crossin and Jacinta Sutton for their contribution these last 12 months.

We also welcomed three new committee members for 2021-22.

Dr Bunty Avieson is a researcher at University of Sydney. She is also a member of the Wikipedia Affiliations Committee (AffCom), Women Write Wiki and WikiProject Bhutan.

Michael Barritt is a passionate wildlife photographer from the Northern Territory. He has worked in wildlife research and herbaria, and as a Park Ranger for the NT's Parks and Wildlife Service. He also worked in the NT Library and the Museum and Art Gallery of the NT, with a focus on environmental education.

Paige Wright is the Special Collections Librarian at the University of Newcastle Library. She coordinates the [Living Histories](#) repository and is an advocate for equity and diversity within collections and on Wikipedia.

The meeting was also an opportunity to take stock of the many achievements of Wikimedia Australia and the broader contributing community over the last year - everything from celebrating 20 years of Wikipedia together in January, to reshaping our work around online events. The successful securing of Simple Annual Plan Grant funding will support another year of engagement and growth for the movement.

Read the [President's report](#) here, the [Secretary's report](#) here and the [Treasurer's report](#) here.

Caddie Brain Wikimedia Australia's first Executive Officer



Wikimedia Australia has employed its first Executive Officer, Caddie Brain. This follows on from a pilot three-month position as Community Outreach and Support Officer and the securing of Simple Annual Plan Grant funding for 2021-22.

Since the chapter was established in 2007, the small managing committee has carried responsibility for governance, community engagement activities and communications. While successful to this point, the committee had reached the limit of its ability to continue to grow operations on an entirely volunteer basis. WMAU contracted experienced Wikimedian Caddie Brain, who is well-recognised in the community and familiar with Wikimedia Australia events and operations, to establish the duties and procedures within the interim role.

Caddie Brain is an independent creative technologist, producer and former journalist. She began Wikiclub NT, a monthly editing club in the Northern Territory that effectively doubled the number of pages for that region and established Know My Name, a partnership with the National Gallery of Australia. She has also produced radio, exhibitions, augmented reality audio tours, machine learning prototypes, Wikipedia editing clubs and recently supported Arrernte young people, artists and linguists to make their own emoji set. She has worked in public programs and exhibitions across the GLAM sector and

recently completed a Master in Applied Cybernetics.

Caddie works part time but can be reached at caddie.brain@wikimedia.org.au

Meet Wikimedia Australia's first intern

Wikimedia Australia is excited to have its inaugural intern join our team! James Gaunt is studying journalism at RMIT in Melbourne. He is a writer, illustrator, and librarian and the author of *Making Psyence Fiction*, a book on the early career of James Lavelle and DJ Shadow, and has written extensively on the English record label Mo' Wax. He completed a Graduate Diploma in Library and Information Management at University of South Australia, and has a keen interest in exploring how libraries connect with and are used by our communities. James is currently working across a range of case studies on Australian Wikimedia projects as well as shaping an Australian music project.

Wiki Loves Earth 2021 Australian finalists announced

Fifteen photographs have been crowned winners of the 2021 Wiki Loves Earth photo competition in Australia, and will go on to compete in the international round. The competition saw 1510 photos uploaded to Wikimedia Commons from across Australia from 182 users, 162 of whom had never uploaded a photo before.

The Australian competition was organised by volunteer Margaret Donald who, along with several other volunteers, undertook months of tireless work adding coordinates, categories, metadata and 'depict statements' for each image, to help make each image more discoverable.

Thank you to Margaret and the judges for their tireless work and congratulations to all of the competition winners.

[See further details and gallery.](#)

Stories from the finalists

[Christmas Island Red Crab \(*Gecarcoidea natalis*\)](#)

User:Chris Bray

Every year on Christmas Island in the Indian Ocean, 40-50 million large red land crabs emerge from their jungle burrows and march down to the coast to mate and spawn in one of the largest animal migrations on Earth. This spectacular event causes chaos on the island - Park rangers close many of the National Park roads to vehicles to give the crabs safe passage. It's a



magic time of year, when the town is overrun and daily life is transformed by these crabs, and people are forced to adapt and go about their lives in harmony with nature for a while. I took this as the migration started along with the start of the wet season on the 10th December 2019. I just took this with my iphone actually, just reaching it down low to the ground in front of a large male red crab for the foreground, trying to keep a scattering of others visible in the background to show the scale of the migration.

[Balls Pyramid, Lord Howe Marine Park](#)

User:PotMart186



The photo of Ball's Pyramid very nearly didn't happen! Our club Illawarra Birders had organised

a trip to Lord Howe Island which is well-known as a birder's paradise. For any serious birder, a boat trip to Ball's Pyramid is an essential part of any visit to Lord Howe as there are seabirds here that are difficult to find elsewhere. However the waters heading out can be quite treacherous and the weather unpredictable. I had booked onto a boat trip during our week there but because of adverse conditions it was cancelled. We pleaded with the skipper to take us out the next day but conditions were still too rough. It was not until our final day that the weather improved somewhat and the boat was able to get out, but the ride was not for the faint-hearted – someone compared it to being in a washing machine! Happily we reached Ball's Pyramid – definitely worth the trip – and returned safely, with just enough time to pack our bags and hop on the plane home.

[Rainbow Bee-eaters at Round Hill Nature Reserve](#)

User:PotMart186



This photo was very much a team effort! Round Hill Nature Reserve is renowned amongst birders in NSW as a top destination to find rare mallee birds. Round Hill Road is a wide red-dirt track that crosses the reserve and is a great starting point for jumping off into the mallee to look for birds. We always ensure that we have a gps device with us here as it is very easy to become disorientated once away from the road – the landscape looks the same in every direction! On this occasion we were driving down Round Hill Road and spotted a couple of bee-eaters in a tree further down the road. I was in the passenger seat with my camera, with my wife driving. She approached the birds slowly, and as we reached them she turned the car to give me the perfect angle for the shot. A car makes a great hide as birds seem to fear vehicles less than humans on foot. I knew that if I had left the car the birds would have disappeared in a flash!

[Painted Finch at Trepina Gorge Nature Park Northern Territory Australia](#)

User:PotMart186



To celebrate our ruby wedding anniversary my wife and I thought it would be appropriate to visit the Red Centre – it seemed as good as an excuse as any! Both being keen birders, we were excited at the prospect of seeing some hard-to-get desert birds and hopped on a plane to Alice Springs. We had booked a day out with a local bird guide and one of the spots he took us to was Trepina Gorge, about 75km to the east. I was on something of a mission that cold winter's day: as something of a 'twitcher' I keep a tally of the number of different bird species I have seen in Australia. My total at that point was 599 and I was hoping for something special for number 600. As it turned out, when walking above Trepina Gorge we flushed a Spinifexbird, which was great to see for the first time, but being a fairly plain brown bird was a little underwhelming for bird number 600. Bird species number 601 was a bit further along the path: a stunning Painted Finch, warming itself up in the morning sun. If only it had turned up a bit earlier!

[Kata Tjuta, Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park](#)

User:Tununda



We started our 'Valley of the Winds' walk late, around 12:00pm, on a cool day at Kata Tjuta (meaning Many Heads). We walked anti-clockwise, stopping often to absorb the spirituality of this magical dome land, on a perfect Australian day of the bluest sky and feathery white clouds. By 3pm, we were 'out the back' of Kata Tjuta, on the flat lands, where this timeless and majestic gum stands sentinel beside the pathway to the ancient knowledge of the Anangu. A tree moulded by, and paying homage to, the mysterious heads of Kata Tjuta. An evocative scene, frozen in time by my lowly LGE Nexus phone camera – something so beautiful that it transcends technology. And isn't that 'Australia all over'?

First Nations Edit-a-thon during NAIDOC week

On 10 July 2021 during NAIDOC Week, City of Sydney held a First Nations edit-a-thon focused on improving articles of importance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities on Wikipedia. Initially planned for the Redfern Community Centre in 2020, the event was held entirely online due to COVID-19 restrictions and is part of a broader series of City of Sydney edit-a-thons in partnership with Wikimedia Australia.

The First Nations edit-a-thon was led by Kirsten Thorpe, a Worimi Senior Researcher from the [Jumbunna Institute](#) for Indigenous Education & Research at the University of Technology Sydney, and Nathan "Mudyi" Sentance, a Wiradjuri activist, librarian and essayist currently working at the Australian Museum, with Wikimedians Toby Hudson and Caddie Brain.

Thorpe and Sentance described the opportunities Wikimedia platforms could hold for truth telling and acknowledging First Nations histories, but also unpacked the many complexities of ensuring traditional knowledges are controlled by communities and cultural protocols are respected.

"Wikipedia is just one of these sources that people just use," Sentance said. "It's detrimental to ignore it." "There are lots of opportunities to assert First Nations sovereignty, to reconfirm that First Nations people were always here and the incredible work that First Nations people are doing - acts of resistance, survival and resistance in the face of ongoing colonisation." "If information doesn't exist, that's where true trauma lies." Thorpe agrees.

Around 25 participants then worked to improve First Nations histories with a focus on articles about places, cities and towns, some of which

previously had no acknowledgment of any First Nations history, as well as creating new articles on First Nations organisations and leaders.

Women's biographies reach 19%

The movement to improve gender equity on English Wikipedia reached another milestone recently, as the number of biographies about women finally reached 19%. It is a figure that's been hard fought by editors around the world and through movements such as Women in Red and Art+Feminism. This represents significant growth from late 2014, when only 15.53% of biographies were about women.

Ann Reynolds from the Women Write Wiki group who meet twice a month at The Women's Library, Newtown and online is one of Australia's most significant contributors to this campaign. She says there is still much work to do. "There are still so many notable women without Wikipedia bios – women with Australian Dictionary of Biography entries, women who have been awarded the AO for their substantial achievements," she says.

"[Coral Bell AO](#) is a good example – while the ANU renamed its Research School for Pacific Studies as the Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs in 2015, Bell has only this month been given a Wikipedia article," Ann said.

Coming up

Wikimania 2021 is here!

Registrations have now closed for the first ever online Wikimania that starts this weekend! Some highlights include the Wikimedia Australia affiliates session on Monday 16 August at 5pm AEST including:

Representation and erasure: opportunities and risks that Wikipedia presents for First Nations knowledges - Kirsten Thorpe and Nathan "Mudyi" Sentance

It has long been acknowledged that Wikipedia has a diversity problem, among its editors and the content they write. Increasingly, people are meeting up across the world to help remedy this imbalance and bias. These efforts often reveal significant tensions between Wikipedia's principles and other knowledge systems, like those of First Nations people around the world. Kirsten Thorpe, a Worimi researcher from the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education & Research at the University of Technology Sydney, will join Nathan "Mudyi" Sentance, a Wiradjuri activist, librarian and essayist currently

working at the Australian Museum, in a conversation about the opportunities and risks that Wikipedia presents for First Nations people.

Bringing Australian Archaeology From Fringe to Centre - Leia Corrie, Emilie Dotte-Saurot, Emily Grey, Sven Ouzman, and the UWA Archaeology Wiki Collective

Archaeology studies all of human history in all of its aspects and is fascinating to many people. Unfortunately, Archaeology also has a 'lunatic fringe' that promote unreliable and false information. The nature of a wiki means such views are easily disseminated. Recent work between University of Western Australia Archaeology and Wikimedia Australia has focused on correcting racist, sexist, and misleading archaeological entries.

Who do we think we are? - Kelly Tall

What is the relationship between Wikipedia and the Order of Australia recipients? Who is represented and who isn't? In February 2021, researchers Heather Ford, Tamson Pietsch and Kelly Tall from UTS School of Communication published the results of a pilot study entitled: *Producing distinction: Wikipedia and the Order of Australia. A visual essay*. The Order of Australia is notorious for not recognising women at the same rate as men, but the researchers discovered that on Wikipedia, awardees at the Companions or Officer level (the highest Order awards) are represented in slightly higher numbers than men.

Thoughts on running Wiki Loves Earth in Australia - Margaret Donald

We attracted 182 entrants, 162 of whom were new to wikipedia, and 1510 photographs were submitted with approximately 20% being ineligible for the competition. (The ineligibility rate remains a major concern.) Participants were encouraged to upload photos taken in previous years. Hence many competitors contributed photos illustrating multiple states and territories. Uploading photos is among the more difficult tasks in wikipedia and the apparent requirement to categorise images and use "depicts" statements is an unrealistic task for most people. Thus a huge amount of "back room" work needed to be done by experienced Wikimedians to allow good photographs their chance to shine. This talk aims to illustrate and discuss our successes and failures and suggest ways forward.

[Details of the Wikimedia Australia affiliates session are here.](#)

Documenting for Diversity: The Case of 1000 Women in Religion - Kerrie Burn

As part of a panel session, Kerrie Burn will describe an initiative to publish a series of peer-reviewed edited volumes of biographies of notable women, to provide sufficient secondary sources to meet Wikipedia's notability requirements for article creation. Kerrie will speak about their experience facilitating the Australian project, and how it might be used as a model for other regional and/or topic-focused projects. The possibility of a future volume in the series devoted to Australian women in religion is also in the pipeline.

September Community meeting

Wikimedia Australia's next open community meeting is on again on Wednesday 8 September. It's an opportunity to present what you've been working on, seek some advice and have a chat about all things Wikimedia! [Just add your name, update or presentation to the agenda here.](#) The meet-up starts at [7pm AEST online here.](#)

City of Sydney Paralympics Edit-a-thon



Athletes at the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games opening ceremony

The City of Sydney Library, in partnership with Wikimedia Australia are co-hosting a special paralympics edit-a-thon on Saturday 25 September from 11am to 2pm. It will host highly decorated Paralympian and passionate advocate Sarah Stewart who will speak about the importance of diverse voices in documenting Australian Paralympic history. The editing will be led by Tony Naar, Greg Blood and Ross Mallet who manage the Australian Paralympic History Project. Wikipedia editors Toby Hudson and Caddie Brain will help participants improve articles about Paralympians and the Paralympic Games. [Register here.](#)

Australian Women in Religion

The University of Divinity launched its weekly edit-a-thons in June, meeting every Wednesday morning as part of the Australian Women in Religion Project (AWR). Contributors have

already created over [70 new pages](#), with the aim of reaching 100 by the end of this year.

The project is part of the international 1000 Women in Religion Project, and is helping address the gender bias on platforms like Wikipedia while bringing to light the often unrecognised work of women in religion.

Kerrie Burn, Library Manager at the University of Divinity's Mannix Library, has been leading the project and says that these sessions have been a great opportunity to build editing expertise but also a sense of community amongst the participants with a diverse range of individuals who have varying levels of experience with the Australian or international Wiki community.

The AWR project was also recently notified about two successful grant applications, both for \$10,000. One is from the University of Divinity and another is from the Australian Research Theology Foundation Inc. These grants will help to support the progress of several of the associated activities of the wider AWR project.

The "Wiki-Wednesday" sessions are held via Zoom from 9am-10am with editing support from Wikimedia Australia's Pru Mitchell.

Wikimedia Australia updates

The Wikimedia Australia website gets a makeover

They said it couldn't be done. But Wikimedia Australia's Sam Wilson and Caddie Brain are developing a brand new modern MediaWiki skin for the Wikimedia Australia website that went live recently. It's still a work in progress and feedback is welcome!

Apply for Funding

Dreaming of a project, edit-a-thon or doing something experimental with Wikipedia or other Wikimedia platforms? Apply for a Wikimedia Australia community grant! Each year we offer small grants to individuals or community organisations to do cool things. [Got ideas or questions? Let's chat.](#)

Featured tool

Mixin'n'Matchin with Wikidata

Have you heard of [Mix'n'Match](#)? It's a tool making it easy to link Wikidata with data from external databases nominated by contributors.

For example, recently a contributor [added a database of composers](#) from the Australian Music Centre, and mix'n'match scoured Wikidata to see if any of the composer's names were already in its database.

Mix'n'match suggested several preliminary matches and contributors have been going through these to make sure they are correct. One of these was the entry for Australian pianist and composer William G. James. His [Wikidata page](#) now includes a link back to the Australian Music Centre, along with data collected from a variety of other sources.

This isn't the only way to add data to Wikidata, but Mix'n'match makes contributing easy, and can be done in small bursts. Every contribution also means there's more information available to future researchers without them looking too far.

Global news

ESEAP update

ESEAP - East, Southeast Asia and the Pacific Regional Cooperation - are holding a get-together at the Wikimania Unconference on Saturday 14 August at 9pm AEST. [Full details are here.](#) Its next regular meeting is on 11 September 2021.

Paving the Way for a Wikimedia Movement Charter

While the Wikimedia Movement has grown to encompass more than three hundred language projects and about two hundred affiliates, there is still no single document that defines the roles and responsibilities of all these many communities and entities. This is the gap that the [Movement Strategy](#) recommendations aspire to fill with the [Movement Charter](#), a declaration that would help to "establish a common framework for decision-making". The question is: How can we best achieve that? [Read an update on creating a Movement Charter.](#)

Board of Trustee elections

The 2021 [Board of Trustees](#) elections have been rescheduled and will take place from 18 August 2021 to 31 August 2021. Wikimedia community editors can vote to appoint individuals to a 3-year term on the [Wikimedia Foundation Board of Trustees](#). The election is significant for being among the highest profile, highest impact events for Wikimedia community participation in the

governance of the Wikimedia Foundation and the Wikimedia Movement. [Read more here.](#)

Stay in touch

If you have any content you'd like us to feature in the next newsletter, please get in touch at: contact@wikimedia.org.au. You can also follow us on our [website](#), [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).